

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01538 041440Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 L-03 EB-11

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC PBOR BF

SUBJ: BAHAMAS PUBLICIZES SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

REF: NASSAU 1523

1. GCOB IS CURRENTLY UTILIZING PRESS AND RADIO FACILITIES TO PUBLICIZE ITS FISHERIES REGULATIONS, PARTICULARLY AS THEY PERTAIN TO SPORT FISHERMEN. PUBLICITY, IN ADDITION TO EMPHASIZING THAT BAHAMIAN FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT POLICY (DESCRIBED AS SIMILAR TO USG POLICY) REMAINS UNCHANGED, APPEARS DESIGNED TO OFFSET COMPLAINTS BY SPORTSMEN ARRESTED IN THE BAHAMAS FOR ILLEGAL FISHING (SEE REFTTEL FOR MOST RECENT EXAMPLE) THAT THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF REGULATIONS.

2. GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY EFFORTS, COORDINATED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, STRESS THAT REGULATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, REMAIN UNCHANGED AND ARE CLEAR. MAXIMUM PENALTY UNDER BAHAMIAN FISHERIES ACT FOR VIOLATIONS OF PERTINENT REGULATIONS BY EITHER COMMERCIAL OR SPORT FISHERMEN IS \$10,000 FINE, PLUS ONE YEAR IN PRISON, PLUS CONFISCATION OF VESSEL.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01538 041440Z

3. UNTIL A FOREIGN VESSEL RECEIVES BAHAMIAN CUSTOMS CLEAR-

ANCE, IT MUST FLY A YELLOW QUARANTINE FLAG AND MAY NOT TOUCH SHORE WITHIN THE BAHAMAS EXCEPT AT AN AUTHORIZED PORT OF ENTRY (SEE PARA 4, BELOW, FOR LIST OF SAME). FOR PRIVATE VESSELS WISHING TO CRUISE OR SPORT FISH IN THE BAHAMAS, A "TRANSIRE" MUST BE OBTAINED AT THE NEAREST PORT OF ENTRY. SPORT FISHING WITHOUT A "TRANSIRE" EXPOSES THE VIOLATOR TO THE ABOVE PENALTIES. THE "TRANSIRE" IS DESCRIBED AS SIMILAR TO FISHING AND CRUISING LICENSES ISSUED WITHIN THE US, SHOULD BE PRESENTED ON DEMAND TO ANY GCOB POLICE OR LOCAL OFFICIAL, AND MUST BE SURRENDERED WHEN LEAVING THE BAHAMAS. POSSESSION OF VALID "TRANSIRE" PERMITS SPORT FISHING, BUT SPORT FISHING ONLY, WITHOUT FURTHER DOCUMENTATION. "TRANSIRE" MAY BE OBTAINED WITHOUT CHARGE, UNLESS WEEKEND OR HOLIDAY OVERTIME ON PART OF ISSUING OFFICER IS INVOLVED.

4. AUTHORIZED PORTS OF ENTRY ARE: ON ABACO, GREEN TURTLE CAY, GRAND CAY, MARSH HARBOUR, SANDY POINT AND WALKER'S CAY; ON ANDROS, NICOLL'S TOWN, SAN ANDROS, FRESH CREEK, MANGROVE CAY AND CONGO TOWN; IN THE BERRY ISLANDS, GREAT HARBOUR CAY AND CHUB CAY; NORTH BIMINI, CAT CAY; HARBOUR ISLAND; HATCHET BAY; IN ELEUTHERA, GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR AND ROCK SOUND; GEORGE TOWN, EXUMA; ON GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND, WEST END, FREEPORT AND LUCAYA; MATHEW'S TOWN, INAGUA; ABRAHAM'S BAY, MAYAGUANA; NASSAU, DUNCAN TOWN, RAGGED ISLAND; AND COCKBURN TOWN, SAN SALVADOR.
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